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**Opening Statement of**  
**Chairman Doug Lamborn**  
**Before the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee**  
**Oversight Hearing on**  
***"Domestic Oil and Natural Gas: Alaskan Resources, Access and Infrastructure"***  
**Thursday, June 2, 2011**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Today's hearing will focus on the tremendous resources that are on and offshore of Alaska and the critical infrastructure that brings those resources to market. Alaska has been and will continue to be an integral part of our nation's energy security. The opportunity and promise that has always made Alaska a special place, is particularly true when it comes to energy.

There is no doubt that Alaska holds tremendous resources. The offshore of Alaska is estimated to hold at least 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. But that is just the start, onshore there could be an additional 14 billion barrels just waiting for development. Utilizing these resources will help lessen our foreign dependence, create jobs and keep revenue here in the U.S. But accessing these resources is also the main source of frustration.

One example has been development of the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska, an area designated both in name and in status as an area to provide oil and natural gas exploration, sits stymied by the inability of the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA to process a permit for the pipelines and roads necessary to transport the petroleum out of the petroleum reserve. This is a problem that the President should step in and untangle. There are few more egregious examples of bureaucratic red tape stifling development of our domestic resources than the problem facing oil and gas developers in the NPRA today.

But Alaska isn't just home to vast resources; it is also home to tremendous achievements of engineering. The Trans Alaska Pipeline System, or TAPS, is one of the great engineering achievements of our nation. This 800 mile pipeline system has resulted in 16 billion barrels of oil flowing from the northern reaches of North America into the cars of the Western United States, at the same time it has kept the money flowing from American consumers into the American treasury. This in many ways is one of the most important reasons we need to focus on how to keep the pipeline filled, healthy and serving the people of America.

Each of those 16 billion barrels represents one small victory for domestic development over foreign dependence. But at the same time, every barrel of capacity in the TAPS that goes unused, is one more missed opportunity to reduce our dependence.

Before this subcommittee it has often been said that we don't have a lack of resources to curb our foreign dependence, we have a lack of clear policy. It can and should be the policy of this government to develop the resources in our National Petroleum Reserve, quickly, efficiently and responsibly to reduce our foreign dependence, create jobs and keep our revenue here at home.

I want to thank all the witnesses for being here today and look forward to hearing your testimony.